

The 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

Sirs:—In the last number of 'The Auk' you charge the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum with being *antedated*. Allow me to correct the presumption that the date at the bottom of the first page of each signature is "the date of its issuance from the Government Printing Office." The date in question is simply the date of stereotyping the plates, as it very often happens that these are not printed off immediately after casting. In order to avoid confusion in the future, it has been decided, however, to omit the date of stereotyping, and each sheet distributed separately will be stamped with the exact date of publication. In the volume of 'Proceedings' for 1886, there will be found a list of the dates of issuance of each signature, and it is intended to have a similar list accompany each volume in the future.

Yours, very truly,

LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

Smithsonian Institution,

June 9, 1887.

We are glad to learn that the signatures of the 'Proceedings' will in future be stamped with the "date of publication," when sent out separately. The list of dates of issuance of the signatures of the volume for 1886 has come to hand, and will be of permanent value. The "date of stereotyping" certainly had the appearance of being the date of publication, and with nothing to indicate the contrary, would naturally be so taken, and, to our knowledge, has been so understood.—EDD.]

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE American Museum of Natural History, of New York City, has recently received several important additions to the Department of Ornithology. One of the most important of these is the acquisition of Mr. D. G. Elliot's almost unrivalled collection of Hummingbirds, numbering over 400 species, represented by about 2000 specimens, and including some fifty or more types. Its importance is further enhanced from its having formed the basis of Mr. Elliot's recent monograph of the family. It doubtless ranks as second in the world in point of completeness, or next to that of the British Museum. This collection is a gift from Mr. Elliot, whose unfaltering interest in the Museum has been manifested on many occasions, by valuable donations and important services.

Another invaluable accession is the addition, by purchase, of Mr. George N. Lawrence's collection of American birds, numbering about 3000